



**R. Booth Goodwin II, United States Attorney
Southern District of West Virginia**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 24, 2011
<http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/wvs/>

CONTACT: Melvin Smith
800-659-8726*(304)345-2200
Melvin.Smith@usdoj.gov

OHIO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

BECKLEY, W.Va. – Marvin Keaton, 29, of Columbus, Ohio pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Irene C. Berger to possession with intent to distribute cocaine. On March 29, 2010, the Beckley Drug Unit executed a search warrant at Keaton's motel room in Beckley, West Virginia. During the search of the motel room, officers found 12 grams of cocaine approximately 54 grams of cocaine base, which Keaton admitted that he brought to Beckley to sell.

Keaton faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on July 21, 2011.

This case was investigated by the Beckley Drug Unit. Assistant United States Attorney John File is in charge of the prosecution.

###

BECKLEY MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO FEDERAL DRUG CHARGES

BECKLEY, W.Va. – Michael Aaron Blankenship, 29, of Beckley, West Virginia, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court before United States District Judge Irene C. Berger to distribution of methamphetamine. On April 22, 2010, Blankenship admitted to selling 1.28 grams of methamphetamine to an undercover police officer in Bradley, Raleigh County, West Virginia. Blankenship further admitted that he had manufactured about 30 grams of methamphetamine.

Blankenship faces up to 20 years in prison and a \$1 million fine when he is sentenced on July 28, 2011.

This case was investigated by the West Virginia State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney John File is in charge of the prosecution.

###

LOGAN COUNTY WOMAN SENTENCED ON FEDERAL OXYCODONE CHARGE

CHARLESTON, W.Va. – Tina Michelle Vance, 33, of Mud Fork, Logan County, West Virginia was sentenced to three years probation yesterday by United States District Judge John T. Copenhaver Jr. on a federal drug charge. Vance pleaded guilty in December 2010 to distribution of oxycodone, also known as "OxyContin." On July 27,

2009, Vance admitted to selling one OxyContin 80-milligram pill to a confidential informant in exchange for \$100. Vance further admitted that the drug transaction took place at her Logan County residence.

The investigation was conducted by the U.S.119 Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney William King handled the prosecution.

#